

SARAH S. ANKER

Suffolk County Legislator, Sixth District



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFORMATION RELEASE:
July 27, 2016

Contact: Theresa Santoro
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Legislator Anker Committed to Making Field of Dreams a Reality



The property, referred to as the blighted Kmart property, is located on Middle Country Road in Middle Island, across from Artist Lake.

HAUPPAUGE, NY – At the General Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature on Tuesday, July 26th, Legislator Sarah Anker introduced two resolutions that could forever change Middle Island. The two introductory resolutions, if approved by the Legislature, will begin the appraisal steps for the blighted Kmart property on Middle Country Road in Middle Island. One of the resolutions will appraise the southern portion of the property, approximately 21 acres, to be used as active parkland and the second resolution will appraise the northern portion of the property, approximately 28 acres, to be designated as open space.

Since entering public office, Legislator Anker has been interested in having Suffolk County acquire this property to create a community park with athletic fields. The old Kmart, which was recently demolished by the owner, remained vacant for over a decade. This year, Legislator Anker has been working with Suffolk County, the Town of Brookhaven, community organizations, including the Longwood Youth Sports Association (LYSA) and Middle Island Civic Association, and the current owner of the property to bring the idea to full fruition. A community park would help decrease crime and improve the quality of life for residents in Middle Island, as well as provide a safe space for youth sports leagues.



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"This blighted parcel is in great need of revitalization. Having been part of the creation of Mt. Sinai's Heritage Park, I know with strong advocacy and public support we will be successful in Middle Island. After meeting with a number of stakeholders interested in creating Middle Island's community park, I feel very confident that working together, we can make this field of dreams a reality." said Legislator Anker.

To voice your support for this project, please contact Legislator Anker's office at 631-854-1600, or email Legislator Anker at <u>Sarah.Anker@suffolkcountyny.gov</u>.

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